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# Wisconsin Forestry Notes

September 2005

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

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## Meetings to discuss landowner program changes

*Wisconsin's recently-passed budget bill is causing changes in two state programs for forest landowners. Information sessions are planned for Sept 22 and 23 to explain the changes and answer questions.*

The state budget bill (2005 Act 25) passed this summer is bringing significant changes to the Managed Forest Law (MFL) and the Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program (WFLGP). The Division of Forestry has scheduled two information sessions for forestry consultants, forest landowners and others interested in these state programs to review the proposed changes and answer questions. Division of Forestry personnel will also discuss the draft administrative rule proposals that are scheduled for the September Natural Resources Board meeting. Although public comments will not be taken at these sessions, public input will be taken at hearings on the draft administrative rules to be held in October. The schedule for the two upcoming information sessions is:

Dates:	September 22, 2005	September 23, 2005
Times:	5:30 – 7:30 pm	5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Locations:	UW-Extension Office Price County Normal Building 104 S. Eyder Ave. Phillips, WI 54555	Sauk County Annex Room B24 505 Broadway, West Square Bldg #2 Baraboo, WI 53913

Find information about these two programs and the proposed changes online at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Private/financial/Index.htm> or contact Forest Tax Law Program Manager [Carol Nielsen](#) at 608-266-8019.

## Fire grants being awarded

*The Division of Forestry will be distributing over \$900,000 in grants to fire departments and county fire associations later this month to bolster their prevention, detection and suppression capabilities on wildland fires.*

Nearly 330 fire departments throughout Wisconsin applied for Forest Fire Protection (FFP) grants this year and DNR will be awarding approximately \$775,000 to 280 of the applicants later this month. This grant program includes a combination of state and federal funds. The Department will also be awarding \$135,000 in federal funding to about fourteen County Fire Associations through the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant program. Both programs support projects on a 50/50 cost-share basis.

The VFA grants (maximum award is \$10,000) support projects that have a positive impact on the prevention, detection, and suppression of wildland fires in all of the communities served by a county/area fire association. The FFP funds increase forest fire protection and suppression capabilities through cooperative efforts with local fire departments and county fire associations. Eligible fire departments can receive a maximum grant award of \$10,000 and eligible county fire associations can receive a maximum grant award of \$25,000 through the FFP program.

The recipients of the grants will be posted online by the end of September at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Fire/firedept.htm> For more information about these grant programs, contact Cooperative Fire Specialist [Chris Klahn](#) at 608-297-2214.

*DNR employees are happy to lend a helping hand in emergency situations around Wisconsin and throughout the nation, while staying ahead of potentially dangerous situations here on the homefront.*

## Division of Forestry helps those in need

On August 18, 2005 a tornado with winds up to two hundred miles an hour carved a ten-mile long, half-mile wide path of destruction across rural subdivisions and farms just north of Stoughton, Wisconsin. As a result, 89 houses were destroyed beyond repair, another 67 houses were badly damaged and 84 others suffered some damage. As with other emergencies (including the disastrous Labor Day 2002 tornado that struck Ladysmith, Wisconsin), the Division of Forestry mobilized staff from throughout the state to help in the aftermath of this catastrophic event in the Stoughton area. The DNR Incident Management Team members helped over a two-day period in mobilizing more than 1,700 volunteers to aid residents of the tornado-stricken area.

Following on the heels of this local emergency was, as everyone is keenly aware, one of the largest natural disasters in our nation's history. Governor Doyle and DNR Secretary Hassett have encouraged DNR employees to also assist with the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort. DNR already has several people down there helping in the southern states and we expect to lend additional personnel and resources over time. The DNR Division of Forestry is proud of the fact that our employees have these emergency incident skills and we're pleased to be able to provide a helping hand whenever possible. However, given that Wisconsin is still under long-term drought conditions, the Division of Forestry leaders are balancing the need to provide for initial attack fire suppression in Wisconsin and meet our other statutory work requirements with the out-of-state assistance needs.

## Destructive pest discovered in Upper Michigan

Two larvae pulled from a detection tree in Brimley State Park (located near Sault St Marie in Michigan's Upper Peninsula along the Lake Superior shoreline) were confirmed as emerald ash borer on September 12. Emerald ash borer – an exotic, aggressive beetle native to Asia – was discovered in southeast Michigan in 2002. The pest is responsible for the death or damage of approximately 15 million ash trees in lower Michigan.

Although Michigan officials say this appears to be an isolated infestation based on their extensive visual survey in U.P. campgrounds this summer, they are responding quickly and aggressively to eradicate it. "The eradication strategy for areas like Brimley includes removal of all ash trees within a half-mile from any known site of infestation," said Michigan DNR Director Rebecca Humphries.

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry has been actively working with partners (including the Dept of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection, UW-Extension, USDA Forest Service, forest industry and others) to develop an emergency action plan for responding to any possible future outbreaks of the emerald ash borer in Wisconsin.

For more information about this pest, contact Wisconsin DNR's Forest Health Coordinator [Jane Cummings-Carlson](mailto:Jane.Cummings-Carlson@dnr.wi.gov) or visit: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info> or <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/FH/Ash/index.html>

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**"Wisconsin Forestry Notes" is a monthly electronic publication highlighting programs and activities of the Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry, Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707**  
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